



# Minutes SWP General Assembly 2018

Date: 29.05.2018

Place: Henniez, Nestlé Waters HQ

Participants: In total 43 participants representing 30 member organisations (see list of participants in Annexe).

Minutes: SWP Secretariat

## Agenda

**A/ Welcome coffee and address (10:00 – 10:30)**

**B/ Get to know the Eco Broye Nature Conservation Project for Henniez (10:30 – 12:30)**

**C/ Networking lunch (12:30 – 13:30)**

**D) General Assembly – Statutory Part (13:30 – 14:30)**

**D.1 Opening**

- D.1.1 Opening of the General Assembly by Olga Darazs, Co-Chair of the Swiss Water Partnership
- D.1.2 Confirmation of the number of voters and majority for votes
- D.1.3 Approval of the Agenda
- D.1.4 Approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly

**D.2 Key achievements 2017 and lessons learnt**

- D.2.1 Presentation and approval of the annual report 2017
- D.2.2 Presentation and approval of the financial report 2017
- D.2.3 Appointment of the independent auditor for 2017

**D.3 SWP: the way forward**

- D.3.1 Presentation and approval of the action plan 2018-2019
- D.3.2 Presentation and approval of the budget 2018

**D.4 Membership & Governance**

- D.4.1 Presentation and approval of new members
- D.4.2 Notification on members which left the SWP
- D.4.3 Approval of the membership fees for 2018
- D.4.4 Presentation of the key contributions of the Steering Board in 2017
- D.4.5 Presentation of SB election results



**E) 2019 UN Water Special topic: Leaving no one behind & SWP members pitches (14:30-15:30)**

**F) Coffee Break (15:30-16:00)**

**G) Breakout session (16:00 – 17:00)**

**F.1 SWP Financing Facility**

**F.2 UN-Water Theme 2019: Leaving no one behind**

**F.3 SWP Youth Strategy**

**H) AOB and closing of the General Assembly (17:00 – 17:30)**

**I) Aperitif (17:30-18:30)**

## D) General Assembly – Statutory Part

### D.1 GA Opening

Olga Darazs, the Co-Chair of the Swiss Water Partnership (SWP), welcomed the audience and opened the General Assembly (GA) 2018.

#### Decisions:

- The GA approved the agenda of the meeting.
- The GA approved the minutes of the GA 2017.

### D.2 Key achievements 2017 and lessons learnt

Soraya Kohler (SWP Coordinator) highlighted the following key achievements of 2017:

- **Dynamic Learning:** most objectives were achieved (mapping of trainings, knowledge exchange on SDG6 & launch of the Swiss Junior Water Prize (SJWP)); the learning event on assessment of surface & ground water has been postponed to 2018; additional sponsors to finance the SJWP are needed as well as communication on the prize.
- **Strong Swiss Voice:** innovative cross sector solutions have been presented to international and national audience; progress in collaboration with strategic partners was achieved (e.g. agreement to share SWP members' CVs with the World Bank); an event targeting the Geneva international community is planned for 2018.
- **Water Dialogue:** SWP members actively contributed to the current debate on the monitoring of the SDG6 at the occasion of the two events organized in 2017.

**Platform Development:** four organizations joined the partnership (HYCON, Soutien Sans Frontières, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Water, Environment and Human Development Initiative (WEHDI); 3 active working groups; innovative concept elaborated for a blended finance initiative (SWP Financing Facility) and validated by a number of private investors and potential partners; work on SWP communication channels.



Further, the following lessons learnt were mentioned:

- In general, the opportunity for **informal exchanges** between SWP members but also the **involvement/ownership** of the SWP members in SWP activities is highly appreciated and should as far as possible even be increased in the future (e.g. participation in SWP learning event).
- Further, the SWP should carry on creating **values and visibility** for its members (e.g. vetted CVS for the World Bank; participation in key international events).
- Given the high level of interest from the members on the reflection on new financial models, the SWP's efforts to **test the feasibility of its blended finance model** should continue in close collaboration with the interested members.

Following aspect was explained concerning the financial report and the annual negative result:

- The turnover was slightly lower (2016 has seen a spike due to the added income from the study tour);
- A lower income was also observed for member contributions to events;
- The main reason is the focus on the development of the concept of SWP Financing Facility which was not budgeted.

->The SWP secretariat will minimize costs at international events and try to increase sponsorship & members' acquisition.

#### Decisions:

- The GA approved the 2017 annual report.
- The GA approved the 2017 financial report.
- The GA approved the appointment of the independent auditor 'TBO Revisions' for 2018.

#### D.3 SWP: the way forward

Soraya Kohler presented the main elements of 2018-2019 Action Plan, which can be summarized as follows:

- Dynamic Learning:
  - Based on the results of the Capacity Development Survey, the following **Learning event** on groundwater will be organised in September 2018
  - **Develop the SWP Youth strategy and action plan to implement it** (including the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> editions of the SJWP)
- Strong Swiss Voice:
  - SWWW: two events on nature-based solutions for water and the Swiss booth
  - Geneva event on nature-based solution for water (tent. fall 2018)
  - World Water Forum (18-23 March 2018)



- Study Tour & demand for Swiss expertise: to be triggered with strategic partners
  - Promote Swiss expertise with the Catalogue of Swiss-Trainings
  - Concretize the Steering Board ideas developed during the SB retreat (SWP role in blended finance/ SWP Financing Facility)
  - Call for the launch of a new discussion group 2019 UN theme on `Leaving no one behind`.
- Water Dialogue:
  - Follow-Up event `Shaping Global Policies` on SDG monitoring
- Platform Development:
  - Strengthening membership & active participation
  - Sharpen SWP communication
  - Pilot the innovative blended finance concept

#### Discussion:

- It was asked how SWP could collaborate with Switzerland Global Enterprise (SGE) or Cleantech Alps to better understand market needs.
  - SWP is already in close contact with SGE; Cleantech Alps is part of the SB.
  - The discussion is also open for the prioritization of the international events to which SWP should participate; events where the private sector would have more interest.
- There was a question around the role of SWP towards decentralized cooperation.
  - SWP secretariat and board are currently exchanging with the secretariat of the solidarit'eau initiative to look for collaboration and synergies on this topic.
- Regarding the budget, there were concerns that the secretariat could not close the gap in 2018 and that there is a cumulated benefit.
  - Revenues were as planned, the case is that expenditures were higher than foreseen due to this new activity on blended finance. Reducing costs of events and enhancing sponsorship will enable to close this gap in 2018.

#### Decision:

- The GA approved the 2018-19 action plan.
- The GA approved the budget for 2018.

#### D.4: Membership & Governance

Membership: Soraya Kohler presented the new members. Four members have joined the SWP since last General Assembly: HYCON, Fachhochschule Nordwest Schweiz, WEHDI and Soutien Sans Frontières. All were welcomed with warm applause. Further, the SWP coordinator informed on the members, which had either left the SWP or been excluded. The main reason was that water was not their main focus anymore, therefore the SWP could not



respond to their needs. These were: ECOS, Gold Standard, First Climate, Visible Solutions and Noveltis.

#### **Decisions:**

- The GA approved the admission of all new members.
- The GA approved the membership fees for 2018.
- The GA approved to keep the current model of SWP secretariat during the next SDC funding phase.

#### **Governance: Presentation of the key contributions of the Steering Board in 2017**

The SB provided guidance to the secretariat, strengthened relationship with strategic partners (finance institutions, insurances, external consultant, regional banks and national partnerships), represented the partnership at various occasions and supported the development of the concept of SWP Financing Facility. Further, they have initiated the SWP youth task force and coached the development of key documents (e.g. annual reports, action plan).

**Presentation of SB election results:** out of 37 member organizations that participated in the voting of the new SB members, there were two that voted only for 1 candidate. In total, 29 voted for Derko Kopitopoulos (Ecopsis), 25 voted for Andreas Zysset (EBP) and 18 for Roland Metzler (IBG). Therefore, Derko Kopitopoulos and Andreas Zysset were warmly welcomed in their new function of SB members.

The following current Steering Board members have been approved for another term with clear majority: Olga Darazs (CSD/ Co-Chair of the SWP), Chris Zurbrügg (eawag), Johannes Heeb (cewas/Seecon), Eric Plan (CleantechAlps), Nidal Salim (GIWEH) and Edi Medilanski (SECO).

#### **E) Special topic: “Leaving no one behind: human rights, migration and refugees” (14:30-15:00)**

In regard to the UN Water theme 2019, Louisa Gosling, quality manager at WaterAid and also co-leader of the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) theme “leave no one behind”, was invited as guest to introduce the topic. First she recalled the commitment of all states to the progressive realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, i.e. that all types of services, in any location, should comply with those rights.

Second she focused on the principle of equality and non-discrimination, which is a cornerstone of the human rights in practice. It encompasses both the prohibition of discrimination and the obligation for states to work towards equality, including in water and sanitation service provision. States must furthermore be mindful of indirect (de facto) discrimination and – where this is revealed – take immediate measures to effectively end it.



States must also work towards eliminating existing inequalities. This requires knowledge of disparities, which typically not only include income groups but also rural – urban populations, disparities based on gender and the de facto exclusion of marginalised groups. Targeted affirmative measures must be taken to ensure that gaps between those who have access to water, sanitation and hygiene and those who do not, are narrowed and eventually closed. Vulnerable people include for example people living in informal settlements, indigenous peoples, refugees, traveller communities, internally displaced persons and returnees, victims of natural disasters, prisoners, older persons, people with disabilities, people with serious or chronic illnesses, children, women and transgender and intersex individuals. As an example, she presented the possible barriers refugees face to access to water and sanitation services.

### G) Breakout sessions and feedback

The breakout sessions were touching upon following themes that were discussed in groups and had the following outcomes:

**SWP Financing Facility:** The session enabled to further develop the Financing Facility concept and gather ideas for piloting it. In addition to developing innovative revenue generation mechanisms, the concept should highlight ways to reduce costs such as by improving governance (integrity) and putting in place effective Operation & Maintenance mechanisms. The importance of the local entities was highlighted. The role of the local entities is to manage a number of projects with different implementing partners and develop agreements with indirect beneficiaries. This enables the local entities to create multiple values for the indirect beneficiaries and to cross-subsidize different project types. Finally, linking with the nature-based solutions group and also exploring ways to involve both insurance companies and the tourism industry could provide opportunities for piloting the concept.

**2019 UN-Water Theme on leaving no one behind:** This breakout session aimed at starting the discussions on the new UN Water theme/ yearly SWWW topic in order to create a working group. The group reflected on the title of the WG “Leaving no one behind – Refugees and Migrants”: Putting the special focus on the term refugees and migrants was considered as too limiting. Refugees and migrants should not be considered separately but as one part of the marginalized groups. Therefore, it was recommended to keep the title in more general terms “leaving no one behind”. Four possible actions were identified: 1) Material sharing among SWP members’ (i.e. What actions and examples can be shown in this field?), 2) Show/gather examples from Switzerland (e.g. linked to the protocol of protection zones in CH; what do Swiss enterprises do to ensure production and at the same time ensure access to water and sanitation), 3) Create a learning event in CH and 4) Submit a proposal for the Stockholm World Water Week. The following next steps were identified: **1)** The group participants agreed to share some inputs and documentation as base for discussions **2)** Launch the call for participation in the working group, identify a thematic lead; **3)** in the coming weeks there will be the opportunity to exchange with the Geneva based WSSCC in Bern around the topic of leaving no one behind/menstrual hygiene. This could be a starting point for a collaboration for the learning event.

**SWP Youth Strategy:** the participants of the session reflected on why water is considered as less attractive whereas general engineering raises high interest, what could be the



barriers youth face to choose water to study or to enter the professional world and what could do SWP as a network to remove those barriers. Next steps will be to elaborate the SWP youth strategy and to draft an action plan (secretariat + SB). Interested SWP members will be invited to contribute to the realization of the action plan (a working group could be created upon interest).

#### **H) AOB and closing of the General Assembly**

On September 6 2018, the SWP will organize its learning event on assessment of surface and groundwater. The agenda was distributed and members are encouraged to participate. More information on [SWP website](#). Deadline for registration is on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

No additional points for discussion were submitted to the Secretariat ahead of the General Assembly. None of the attended wished to raise a question or an issue in this part of the Assembly.

The assembly was closed by Thomas Zeller with special thanks to Nestlé Waters for their welcoming.